

Metal Output of the Year Estimated at Fifteen Millions—Great Progress Along All Lines.

The year just closing has been one of development and progress to Idaho. In no one year of her history has she mounted such rapid strides along all the lines of improvement. With her wonderful natural resources, her wonderful climate, her rich soil, her mines and fruit, Idaho could not long be kept in the background. Her present population is small, not exceeding 225,000, but as the story of her wonderful resources and the rare opportunities offered home-seekers in this state are told around the world, the tide of immigration is being turned this way and the next decade will witness a vast addition to her population.

Taking the state as a whole, it is naturally divided into what is called north and south Idaho. In the northern counties, especially in Nez Perce, the increase of population during the past year has been larger than in the southeastern part. The discovery of the rich gold quartz camps in Idaho county at Buried Hope, together with the large amount of railroad building in the north part of the state, drew the floating crowds that way, and most of them will remain to build up this growing and important commonwealth.

The southeastern portion of Idaho has developed to a gratifying extent. Weiser, in Washington county, has taken on metropolitan airs and is growing rapidly. A railroad is now building from that place to tap the rich copper regions of the Seven Devils district, and in the near future will be extended through Camas prairie and on towards Lewiston.

St. Anthony Branch.
The St. Anthony branch of the Ore-

Lamar are live mining towns and the mines employ a large number of men.

Placer Mining.
The Twin Springs Placer company has opened up a big proposition near Boise. They own 4,000 acres of good placer ground along the Boise river. They have a flume nine miles long, with a capacity of 10,000 miners' inches. The company is a West Virginia corporation and is capitalized for \$1,200,000. They are reticent concerning the results of their work, but all hands seem satisfied with it.

The Upper Boise Hydraulic Mining company, of which Major Fred H. H. is manager, has expended \$70,000 in developing their properties up the river, which include 1,300 acres of good placer ground.

The Black Horse mine, near Boise, is being worked now and will make a good showing the coming year. At Neal, active work has been going all summer. The Homestead and Hidden Treasure have kept up their record as profitable producers. The former is now down 400 feet, where the ledge is over five feet in width. The Hidden Treasure has a three-foot vein which goes \$30 to the ton.

The Boise Basin has been active the past year, more so than it has been for years. The features of mining in the basin recently is the large number of old properties that have been overhauled and are now being worked with profit. The new processes of handling ore are proving of great value to these miners, and the basin will keep step

over 100 men. There are three miles already built near the canyon and water will be running in the canal from its head to Five Mile by the round way. This canal will irrigate 20,000 acres of excellent land. It will reach what is known as the Bluff, just above Boise, and here will be the residence of the elite of the coming great city. It is one of the biggest irrigation propositions ever undertaken in this part of Idaho and is certain of success.

Quite a number of prominent Salt Lake people are interested in this great enterprise. The officers of the company are: W. C. Annett, president; George L. Collins, secretary; E. J. Young, treasurer; Ed Smith, secretary; Charles Fifer, general manager; O. E. Jackson, general counsel; George L. Cole, general colonization agent.

Boise the Beautiful.
Boise, the commercial, political and social metropolis of Idaho, has made rapid strides in all lines during the past year. Her population may be safely put down at 10,000. The assessed valuation of the city is \$1,000,000. There are 3,000,000, while that of Ada county, of which Boise is the county seat, is \$1,191,771. During the year Boise has assumed metropolitan airs. The city has paved streets, fine cement walks, elegant public buildings, commodious and well-equipped stores and business houses, elegant residences, a first-class water system, good electric light and telephone systems, electric cars, and is in every respect a model modern city.

Her public buildings have been so often written up that further notice is unnecessary. During the year, buildings of various kinds have been constructed here, valued by competent men at a quarter of a million dollars. These include a new city hall, a new that add to Boise's reputation as a city of homes.

The new federal building will go up in the spring. The foundations are already completed. The city is now building a new church that will cost when completed \$15,000. Improvements at the penitentiary in the way of building a new cell block, valued at \$40,000. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company, owned largely by Salt Lake parties, completed one of the finest buildings for their offices and business in the city of the Pacific.

It occupies the place of the famous "Stone Jug," a building built by E. J. Curtis, for many years acting governor, and is now ready for occupancy. The Idaho Implement company, also owned by Salt Lake people, has completed a magnificent new building on the lower end of Main street, into which they have moved their big stock. The fine structure cost \$20,000. The

company is officered as follows: Samuel Peterson, Jr., president; M. E. Whitney, secretary and treasurer; V. C. Kerr, manager of the Boise house. Peter Sonna has added another story to the west end of his large block, which now is one of the finest business blocks in the west.

A new school house, costing \$7,500, has been built in the Locust Grove addition, to accommodate the increasing number of school children of the city. Boise now has four large, commodious and well-equipped school buildings, and a school population of 2,000. J. W. Daniels is the superintendent, assisted by thirty-two teachers.

A new telephone company was organized this year, known as the Idaho Independent Telephone company, limited, with a capitalization of \$100,000, and \$20,000 stock sold and paid up. It has secured to franchise the area of the city has ordered 25,000 pounds of wire and 1,500 poles, and will be operating by the 1st of March, 1900. The officers of this company are: George D. Ellis, president; H. E. Neale, vice president; H. E. Neale, treasurer; H. W. Clement, secretary.

The fruit trade of Boise has been very active this year. The city is in her history. Marcellus & Riggs of this city, who are the largest fruit dealers in Idaho, in the shipping line, stated to your correspondent that the prune belt of this part of Idaho last year, which extends from Weiser to Mountain Home, shipped 100 cars of prunes, forty cars of pears to eastern points and twenty-five cars of apples to Montana points, at a net yield to the grower of \$200 to the car, netting to the fruit men of this district over \$80,000.

The outlook for Boise for the coming year is extremely bright. Subscriptions aggregating \$220,000 out of a necessary \$270,000 have already been secured to bring the main line of the Boise basin to the city. The work will be made, so that work on this important proposition will be commenced early in 1900. The Catholics will build on the valuable church property in the heart of the city a handsome new cathedral, costing \$15,000, the coming year; a large \$65,000 hotel building will go up; the new federal building, the foundations of which are now complete, will be built; a narrow gauge road, the company to build which has already been organized, will be built into the city to bring the ore from the section to Boise for reduction, which will involve the construction of reduction works here; and with increased railroad facilities will come increased population and business. The people face the new year gladly and await with pleasing anticipations the eventful prospect in store for them.

though higher in values than the gold belt proper. Considerable development has been done, values increasing as depth is gained. The property is a promising one.

The Jayhawk group, on Deer creek, is owned by Larry McConnell of this city. It is a silver-lead proposition, and is at present under lease to Dan Riley, who reports it looking well.

The Bodies and Friedman fraction, also on Deer creek, are owned by S. J. Friedman of this city; they are patented and considerable work has been done upon them.

The New Comet, owned by J. F. Kinsey, is near the head of Deer creek, and is showing up well, the lesser having recently struck a good showing of ore.

Stanley Basin Placers.
In Stanley basin, just over the line, in Custer county, a company of that name has this summer operated a steam dredging machine and has taken out considerable money, although it was late in the season when they were ready to operate. This company owns a large and rich tract of placer ground in the basin.

Numerous other parties have claims there and are making preparations for active working in the spring. The ground is known to be rich, but it has

not been worked. The Parnell and Nellie Hy, leased by Pat Egan, are on Deer creek, and are showing up well, the lesser having recently struck a good showing of ore.

On the Little Smoky.
John Schwab and C. Nelson have come very promising gold claims in the Little Smoky, about forty miles from here. This property shows excellent values and seems to grow richer as work is pushed on. The owners have bonded the claim for a fair price, and it is hoped some one with capital will take hold, as the property is a promising one, and needs only development to demonstrate that the great gold belt of Idaho extends as far as the gold belt, twenty-five miles north-east.

The Sunday mine, in Smoky, a silver-lead proposition, has been worked by Hon. P. M. Bruner, the owner, off and on for years. This fall he struck a very rich streak of silver-lead ore, which, so far as has been worked on, shows a fine body of ore. Bruner will operate the property this winter.

The Tyrannus group, silver-lead, also in Smoky, is owned by H. M. Richard and J. S. Thorndike of Paris, France. During the past season a deep tunnel has been driven on the property, but has not caught the vein encountered above. A raise, however, was made from the tunnel, cutting the vein, and a good ore body five feet in width encountered. They have a mill upon the property, and from appearances will run it steadily this coming season.

The Fair Play mine, three miles west of Hailey, is owned by Messrs. Ward, Walters and Chillingworth. This is a silver-lead mine. Developments consist of two tunnels on the vein, aggregating some 550 feet. Ore was encountered in the lower tunnel this summer and a trial lot of twelve tons shipped, running 100 ounces silver and 70 per cent lead. The property is under lease to John Uitch. He is making good headway in getting out the ore.

Working the Star.
The Star mine, owned by Lemp and Talk of Boise, and situated four miles south of Hailey, is under lease to Hon. William Martin of this city. The leasers have worked over three years on this, running a cross-cut near the bed of the creek to catch the ore body, and have struck a fine body of ore, which, however, is not believed to be the one encountered above. They have a force of eight men working, and it is believed the old Star will again join in as a regular producer of the same grade of ore.

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The Warm Spring Consolidated group of claims is owned by State Senator Carey of this city, and is situated in the Warm Spring district. These claims are on Boyle mountain, about ten miles from Ketchum. This property has been a large producer in past years, and operations will be resumed in the spring. A good concentrating mill is operated in connection with the property.

The Moonlight, in Warm Spring district, is owned by the same party, and is being worked. In this section of Idaho, at least, one hand in hand with mining. The mines furnish a ready market for the produce, while the farmers, in return, enable the mines to operate much more economically than where everything has to be shipped in.

Farming and Stock Raising.
And, in this necessarily brief resume of the year's progress the farming and stock raising industries must not be overlooked. There is, in this section of Idaho, at least, one hand in hand with mining. The mines furnish a ready market for the produce, while the farmers, in return, enable the mines to operate much more economically than where everything has to be shipped in.

Lone Star Group.
The Lone Star group, in the same district, is owned by William O'Connor of Muldoon. Weber has been developing these properties (eight claims) since 1882. It is developed by incline shafts, all of which show good grades of about the same grade as the Luck Boy. A tunnel is being run much lower down the hill, to tap the ledge at greater depth and do away with the expense of the incline shafts. Little shipping has been done, the policy of the owner being to develop as far as to have the property in shape for economical mining. The property has, however, been operating in this manner, practically paid its way.

The Jupiter group, also in this district, is owned by William O'Connor of this city. Some 500 feet of tunnels and cuts have been run, all showing more or less good ore. Something over \$10,000 worth of ore has been shipped from this group, which consists of eight claims. The property is a promising one.

Near the Jupiter group are situated the John A. Logan and Eagle Bird Consolidated claims, patented. They are owned by G. L. and H. W. Havens of Denver. The ledge is proven on the surface for 1,300 feet, and has been cut in numerous places by the veins and cuts. The ledge throughout shows a good grade of ore.

The Hippeto claim, also patented, adjoins these claims, and considerable development has been done.

Search for Elkhorn Vein.
The Elkhorn mine, about three miles east of Ketchum, and from which \$110,000 was taken in the early '80s, is under lease and bond to Sam Gundacker and Pat Clarke, who have a force of men working to prove the old-time bonanza on a paying basis. The ledge has apparently been lost in this group, the ore having been all practically taken from the surface. It is believed if the vein can be encountered it will be found as rich as of old.

The Queen of the Hills and Minnie Moore, near Broadford, still lie idle. Henry M. Ryan has obtained a lease on part of the Queen dump, and intends in the spring putting up a plant to work over the dump, which has good values. The Minnie dump has been worked this season by Hill & Ballentine of Bellevue with fair results.

The Michigan, adjoining the Minnie, owned by H. E. Miller of Bellevue and M. Packard of Salt Lake, is under lease and shipping ore at present.

from the property last spring. The ore is in the nature of galena and carbonaceous. The principal work is on the Aetna, a tunnel driven in on the vein about 200 feet, and a short distance from the face a shaft has been sunk some eighty feet, all this being in ore, which, however, is for this region, somewhat lower in grade than ordinary ore here. Still, the values are good. As depth is encountered in the shaft the ore is of a better grade, kidneys of solid galena being encountered and values in gold increasing materially.

It is the idea of the management to sink the shaft about sixty feet further, to determine the values and extent of the ore body, and then drive a tunnel to connect, thus leaving an immense body of ground for stoping. Considering the work done, the property makes an excellent showing.

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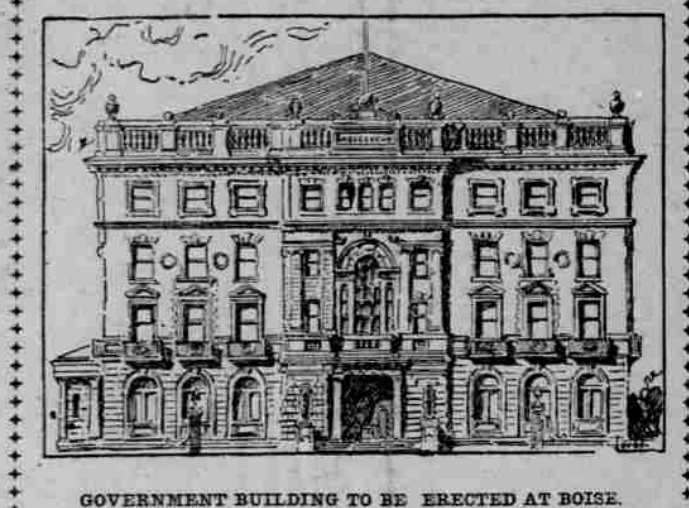
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It is renowned that Blaine county has the best grazing in Idaho. Thousands and thousands of sheep and stock are driven in early in the spring, there to remain until late in December, when they are driven to a less hardy climate. From this station (Hailey) so far this season, have been shipped 425 cars of sheep, loading 300 to the car, and twenty-six cars of cattle, averaging eighteen to the car. From Bellevue and Ketchum there were shipped fully half as many more. Few horses have been shipped, the market being such that it was not deemed profitable. The farmers and stockmen, however, are bringing up their horses to a better grade. Blaine county will derive something over \$4,000 in taxes from the transient stock passing through the county. This speaks for itself.

Prosperity For Camas.
This has been a banner year for Camas, the question of water there not making so much difference, the hard sub-soil holding the moisture and seepage from the high range of hills on the north and practically sub-irrigating the valley. The grain crop was exceptionally good. In some few cases the early frost caught the crops, however. A flour mill is to be built at once, thus creating a market for the grain. The hay is fed to the stock there.

As a criterion that the town of Solitude is picking up, a new jail is being built. Those in western towns who see this augurs activity.

On Silver creek the question of water has been a serious one. The waters of



GOVERNMENT BUILDING TO BE ERECTED AT BOISE.

gon Short Line has just been completed, and this will bring into prominence the splendid farm and grazing lands of Fremont county. This county is one of the most prosperous and promising in the state. It has already nearly 800 miles of irrigating canal, not including laterals, which will furnish water for all the rich lands in that county.

At Boise the proposition to build the main line of the Oregon Short Line through the city has met with such success that the necessary money is nearly raised and your correspondent predicts that are the next New Year's edition of The Herald appears, the main line will be run through the city with the main line of the political standpoint, Idaho is doing all right. The state is having a first-class administration in every department. All of the state's institutions are well and economically conducted, the finances of the state are ably handled by Governor Steuneger and his associates and there is general satisfaction all over the state with the way our affairs are being conducted.

The only ripple to disturb the general harmony was the Coeur d'Alene riots last spring, but they are now a thing of the past—all the warlike matters have been settled up, the rioters are out of the state, it is hoped never to return, and in their places are a splendid lot of law-abiding and economically minded citizens.

Taking a general outlook of the year it may be said that Idaho has had a good year and that the outlook for 1900 is bright.

State Valuations.

The assessed valuation of Idaho, as returned by the county assessors, including railroad, telegraph and telephone lines, for 1899, is \$47,000,000, as against \$30,000,000 for 1898. It may be explained that valuations have been raised by action of the state assessor on recommendation of the state authorities. The valuation is now higher, but the rate is correspondingly lower.

In the matter of livestock, the state auditor's books show the following: Horses, 40,624, with a valuation of \$425,000; cattle, 142,850, with a valuation of \$1,138,000; sheep, 1,035,715, with a valuation of \$1,174,647. As a matter of fact, as to the number of these stocks it would be safe to add 50 per cent. There are nearly 2,000,000 sheep in the state. The wool clip of Idaho for this year will reach 12,000,000 pounds.

Mineral Output.

The state of Idaho ranks fifth in the production of precious metals and lead. The lead product of the state for 1898 was nearly 123,000,000 pounds, of which Shoshone county produced over 138,000 pounds of pure lead. The product for this year will reach, from careful estimates based on what reports have been received by Jay A. Cazel, state inspector of mines, about 80,000 tons of pure lead.

In 1897 the gold, silver and lead product of the state was nearly \$15,000,000, an increase of 55 per cent. For 1898 the product of the same metals was, in round numbers, \$12,591,273. For the year 1899 it is estimated from reports now in that the product will reach nearly the \$15,000,000 mark. The gold output will be more this year than last, owing to the increased activity in gold mining, while the silver output will not be so large.

Since 1862 the mines of Idaho have added \$250,000,000 to the wealth of the United States. It may be said with truth that her mineral resources have been as yet touched only on the surface. The fact is that the state has never been thoroughly prospected. When it is, the world will be astounded at the marvelous wealth stored up in the mountains of Idaho.

The Willow Creek district, near Boise, has come to the front in the past year. The Pioneer mine has a thirty-inch vein of \$100 ore, while the Chickadee has become a large gold producer. There are over 2,000 locations in the camp and the outlook is quite good.

The Owyhee county mines are the largest producers in the state. All the leading properties have been worked the past year and the output has been large. Two big tunnels to tap the veins lower down on Florida and War Eagle mountains are being run and nearly completed. They are gigantic enterprises. The Trade Dollar recently shipped a carload of ore, valued at \$20,000, which sold for over \$20,000. The De Lamar mine is turning out its usual amount. The Black Jack yielded over \$1,000,000 this year. Silver City and De

with other portions of the state in mining. The Sheep Mountain district is rich in silver, but little save development work has been done here this year, owing to the low price of silver, but with free coinage, which it is to be hoped will win out next year, this camp will be one of the most prosperous in the world.

Boise Basin Project.
The Boise Basin Mining & Development company was organized in January of 1899. General George H. Roberts, who has put through several very successful mining propositions in this state, was selected as the manager of this company and W. O. Taylor, also a man of wide and varied experience in mining, as superintendent. The aim of the company was to handle the large quantities of gold on the bottom More's creek, a stream that has yielded more gold than any other in the state. It was carried out of the famous bed-rock flume proposition that in one form and another has agitated the mining men of Idaho for a quarter of a century.

The company has been successful in having finally reached bed-rock on this proposition and it is now an assured fact. During the year the company has expended \$35,000 in building the mine and its necessary adjuncts. The company owns 320 acres on More's creek. They have built 300 feet of the largest bed-rock flume in the world. It is 16 feet wide, 4 feet deep, 1,800 feet long, and is built with two compartments, one 12 feet wide and the other 4 feet wide, so as to utilize either a large or a small quantity of water. It was completed Dec. 12. In addition to this the company has completed a ditch for piping purposes two miles long, with a carrying capacity of 1,000 cubic feet per second. They have also built a fine residence on their property, which is occupied by the superintendent, at a cost of \$3,000. They have built a bunk house for their employees and also a boarding house and have their own sawmills on their property. They have put in a hydraulic lift with power furnished by a Pelton wheel twenty-five inches in diameter. This great undertaking has at last been accomplished and the works will be started by the middle of March.

Big Irrigation Proposition.
Mrs. Mary Halleck Foote, in her "Chosen Valley," has immortalized an irrigation scheme, which had it not been for human sight and been lost among other unrecorded events. It is the celebrated New York canal proposition. Up the canyon about ten miles from Boise still stands the old stone dam, a story and a half high, close by the site of the great dam that was to cost \$125,000 and which was to be the source of the great water power.

Meantime, the pile of empty champagne bottles in the vicinity of the Foote mansion up the canyon grew larger and adventurous people bought the site for song. Thus, lay for years, until Ern G. Engelson, a civil engineer of Boise, sauntered one day along the site of the proposed canal and up to the famous stone dam, incidentally threw his level along there. It occurred to him that it was a shame to abandon such a good thing in the face of the fact that some of the best land within a few miles of Boise lay there a desert on account of the lack of water. He set about to investigate the whole problem anew, and concluded that the dam proposition could not be carried through on account of the great cost, but he reasoned that it was feasible to go a little higher up the river and take a smaller canal out, utilizing all of the canal so far built and adding more, and thus winning victory from the jaws of defeat. He succeeded in convincing a number of moneyed men of the practicability of his scheme, and finally a company was organized and the contract let to do the work. It was completed in January, a force of about thirty-five men has been put in charge of the work. At present some sixty teams are at work in the canyon and

WOOD RIVER DEVELOPMENT

Season of Activity in the Mines—Agriculture and Stock Raising.

Hailey, Ida., Dec. 22.—The year just ended has witnessed a great revival of activity in the Wood river country.

The ore shipments from Hailey and Ketchum to Dec. 1 aggregate in value some \$230,000, this not including numerous lots that were shipped direct, nor the proceeds from the cyanide plant, operating at the Camas dump, nor the bullion returns from the Croesus and Tip Top mines, on the gold belt.

The Idaho Democrat group of mines, incorporated as the Della Mountain Mining company, owned by Colonel Watt and Thomas Brennan of this city, is situated about four miles northwest of the town of Hailey, and consists of five claims, patented, some of which were located as early as 1889, and \$100,000 was extracted and shipped by the original owners. The present owners purchased the property in November, 1898, and have produced some 497,000 lbs. of silver and 1,800 lbs. of gold. A tunnel is being run through a system of tunnels, no machinery being required. The ore is galena, carrying 75 per cent lead and 130 ounces silver, mostly a first-class pay streak, also three inches to two feet in width. A tunnel is being run at the bottom of the gulch to tap the ore bodies above, which will give 150 feet of back between the new tunnel and levels above. The property is one of the most convenient for economical operations in the country.

John A. Boggs is still operating the old Jay Gould extension and extension Bullion claims, under lease, from which a large amount of ore has been marketed. Owing to the shortage of water, he has cut the force down on the Gould extension, which he will have plenty of water for the mill.

Red Elephant, the old-time famous producer, lies idle, litigation being the cause. The Red Cloud group on Deer creek, consisting of sixteen patented claims, is again producing good results under the management of Thomas Kennelly.

John A. Boggs is still operating the old Jay Gould extension and extension Bullion claims, under lease, from which a large amount of ore has been marketed. Owing to the shortage of water, he has cut the force down on the Gould extension, which he will have plenty of water for the mill.

The Croesus.
The Croesus, situated about four miles southwesterly of Hailey, was purchased by S. E. Rice and John C. Spokane and Beatrice, Neb., from E. C. Lewis, a little over a year ago. It is being vigorously operated under the efficient management of Mr. W. G. Sage. Since January, a force of about thirty-five men has been at work constantly. They have on the property a good ten-stamp mill, which, however, is of entirely too small capacity to handle the output; also a compressor, hoist, etc., and are now awaiting the arrival of additional compressor to exploit at greater depth. The ledge is tapped by a cross-cut 600 feet, at depth of 300 feet vertical from surface; then a shaft is sunk 230 feet, with pump. From the shaft three levels are run at fifty, 130 and 230 feet.

The ore in the lower level is changing in character, carrying copper in paying quantities, besides the values in silver and gold. The ore is of a good grade of milling, a deal of which pays to ship direct to the smelters in place of milling at the mill. The policy has been, however, to thoroughly develop the property before any stoping is done, and with this in view no ore has been extracted save what was run through in development. Tests of the ore have proven that the present method of amalgamation and concentration is the most economical method of reducing the property has over 50,000 tons of ore exposed, and the owners have planned to erect a thirty-stamp mill in the spring, and thus be in position to handle the ore when stoped, which will make the property one of the best paying mines in this section.

The Hope group of mines, adjoining the Croesus on the west, has recently been bonded to L. S. McClure of Los Angeles, who will at once begin active operations.

At the Tip Top.
The Tip Top group of mines on the gold belt, about twelve miles southwest

of Hailey, consists of twelve claims, all patented, owned by John Q. Packard of Salt Lake, and is under the management of Captain J. A. Jusk. It is developed to a depth of 300 feet by an incline, also by tunnels, and cross-cuts, showing immense ore reserves.

A twenty-stamp mill, built by Fraser & Chambers, was erected on the property of this group, and is now operating. It has been running continuously since starting up. Some twenty-five men have been employed.